

NORTH CAR. SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 1

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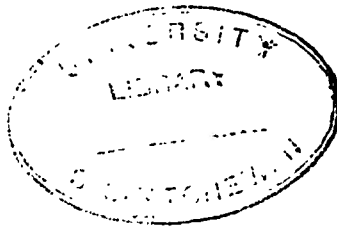
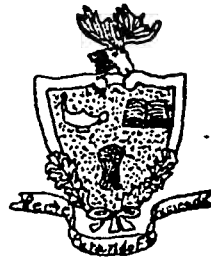
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**Moose Jaw School District**  
**No. 1**

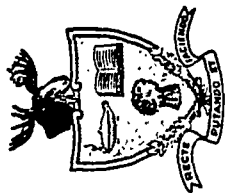
# **Semi-Centennial**

## **1884-1934**



**Wednesday, December 5th, 1934**  
**Technical High School**

P. J. MOON, ESQ., CHAIRMAN  
A. E. PEACOCK, B. SC., B. PED., SUPERINTENDENT  
C. V. WARNER, ESQ., SEC. TREAS.



SCHOOL BOARD OFFICES  
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL  
MOOSE JAW, S.A.S.

## Moose Jaw School District No. 1

1950/51

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Date January 9, 1951

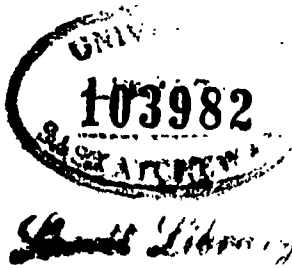
JUN 10 1951

TO THE  
PIONEERS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

*Whose Noble Ideals and Self-Sacrifice We Cherish*

AND TO  
THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS  
*Who Have So Nobly and Loyally Built on the Firm  
Foundations Laid Down by Their Parents*

AND TO  
THEIR GRANDCHILDREN  
*Who, We Trust, Will Emulate the Deeds of Those Who  
Have Gone Before, That We May Build a  
Greater and Better Canada.*



# Fifty Years of Education in Moose Jaw

Half a century ago, the pioneers were pushing westward over these prairies. As if by magic, homesteaders' shacks and sod-houses, mushroom towns of canvas and ship-lap, appeared where the buffalo had grazed and the lean coyote howled. The "Great Lone Land," the Canadian Northwest Territories, was taking to her heart the children of other lands.

Her welcome was sometimes harsh. But to those who fought and conquered her wintry winds she gave of her summer bounty enough and to spare. So the human tide flowed onward from steppe to steppe until stayed by the mountain barrier.

Leading the van of the homesteading host, went the railroad builders. Endless steel rails shone bright in the prairie sunshine, a straight and easy highway from east to west. Shrill locomotive whistles woke new echoes among the grassy hills. Like beads on a silver string, tiny towns strung themselves over the kindly bosom of this new homeland. The golden stream of wheat began its ever-increasing flow. Tall elevators to store and regulate this flood showed everywhere like jagged teeth on the far horizons. The West was born.

Busy as ant-colonies, the pioneers ploughed and built, sowed and reaped, until comforts rewarded them. With food in plenty and secure shelter, they bethought themselves of higher needs. The God of their fathers was near to them, and they must build temples for His worship. Knowledge and wisdom must be sought and passed on to the young minds growing around them. Therefore schools must be established.

In admiration and gratitude for the energy of the pioneers in providing early for the instruction of their families in church and school, we now celebrate these fiftieth anniversaries. Last year, Moose Jaw members of four important churches marked with fitting ceremonies the golden jubilee of the life of their organizations. This year it is the turn of the schools.

Fifty years ago, December fifth, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, Moose Jaw School District Number One was organized. The first legally constituted school district in the whole of the Northwest Territories, from the Manitoba boundary to the Rocky Mountains, from the forty-ninth parallel of latitude to the Arctic Circle. One tiny educational cell in a million square miles of prairie and forest land. Qu'Appelle, Prince Albert, Regina School Districts followed in rapid succession, like the lighting of lamps of learning in a vast darkness. But the first lamp was lighted in Moose Jaw.

Our first school was assembled in the unpretentious lean-to of the old frame Brunswick Hotel then in Foley Hall which stood on the present site of the Maple Leaf Hotel. Fire made another move necessary. This time it was to a hall behind the present site of the Bank of Commerce. Classes were conducted for a time also in a building on the site of the old City Hall, now occupied by the Woolworth Block.

The first permanent school, the Victoria, was erected in 1889. It was then a four-roomed structure, but only two of the rooms were occupied at first.

The first teacher was Mr. J. N. McDonald, deceased some years since in Calgary. That his handling of the school of 76 pupils was efficient is testified by the inspectors' reports: "highly satisfactory," said one, "excellent," commented another.

Seventy-six pupils under two teachers in the first school year—six thousand under a staff of one hundred and forty half a century later.

Seven candidates for public school leaving in 1889—four hundred Grade VIII graduates in 1934.

Eleven high school students in 1890, under William Rothwell, B.A., later Inspector Rothwell; nineteen in 1903, under J. W. Sifton, B.A.—fifteen hundred in 1934 under a staff of forty.

Besides the men already named, the following held the position of principal of Moose Jaw's first school (1889-1903)—Messrs. Ball, Calder, Colton, Fenwick, Quance and Stewart.

Mr. A. H. Ball later served the province long and ably in the capacity of Deputy Minister of Education. J. A. Calder became Minister of Education, and is now Senator. A. M. Fenwick became principal of the Regina Normal School, and later moved to California, where he died.

During the fifty years now closed, six able Ministers of Education have left their impress upon the school system of Saskatchewan—Sir Frederick Haultain, Hon. J. A. Calder, Hon. William Martin, Hon. S. J. Latta, Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Hon. J. T. M. Anderson. Hon. J. W. Estey has just assumed the position.

Under our system of local responsibility for the erection and conduct of schools, it is necessary for each community to seek out men and women of public spirit and gifts of management to act as school trustees. Moose Jaw citizens have been fortunate in their choice of persons for such responsible positions.

The first school board, elected on December 24, 1884—one wonders how the folks got

their Christmas parcels ready with such an important event as the first school meeting occupying part of Christmas Eve—was headed by Mr. Richard Bogue. He and his colleagues, Mr. W. H. Rumsey and the Rev. S. J. Taylor, the Presbyterian minister, had already managed the affairs of a "provisional school," operated unofficially, it seems, until the proper legal machinery could turn out a perfectly legitimate school district. Mr. Bogue later served the City of Moose Jaw (Incorporated November 20, 1903) as Mayor and Police Magistrate.

The chairmen of the Moose Jaw Public School Board from that first body to the present were—Messrs. H. McDougall, H. Ferguson, S. C. Saunders, E. Colpitts, T. B. Baker, William Grayson, A. W. Irwin, J. S. Clark and C. W. Crichton. Since the first Collegiate Board of the Moose Jaw High School District Number Two was constituted in 1908, one Chairman has always presided over both boards, with one exception, in 1932, when Dr. J. E. Bloomer acted as Chairman of the Collegiate Board only.

Of the fifty years that have elapsed since that first school meeting in Foley Hall, more than half saw Mr. William Grayson in the position of Chairman of the Board. During that long period of almost thirty years, with clear vision and firm hand he directed school affairs in Moose Jaw.

Mr. A. W. Irwin stands second in length of service as trustee and as chairman and trustee for a term of twenty-four years.

No history of the educational growth of Moose Jaw would be complete without more than a passing reference to the long period of worthy effort and successful achievement of Superintendent of Schools, Dr. J. W. Sifton. For thirty-one years, beginning in 1903 as principal of the first school, then as superintendent of all the schools in the city, and for the past three years as principal of the Technical High School and superintendent of public schools, Dr. Sifton has labored efficiently in and for the educational institutions of Moose Jaw.

It has been the custom of the School Boards to give to their teachers a security of tenure which has been the envy of those in other centres. Thus it is that a list may be shown of no fewer than ten teachers who have worked in Moose Jaw schools for a quarter of a century—the Misses A. F. Arnold, K. A. McBean, E. J. Poole, and A. and G. Rorison; and Messrs. J. K. Colling, W. T. Cunningham, H. D. Hedley, J. W. Sifton and W. W. Snider.

Three who have served the schools in other capacities than teaching have piled up similar records, viz.—Messrs. J. Brooks, G. W. Peck and F. G. Smith.

Space does not permit the listing of many others whose terms of service run from ten to twenty and more years.

The increase of pupils from seventy-six to six thousand naturally necessitated the construction of a series of excellent school buildings—Victoria, 1889; Alexandra, 1905; King Edward, 1906; Empire, 1909; King George, 1911; Prince Arthur, 1912; Ross, 1913; Hillcrest, 1918; Westmount, 1920; William Grayson, 1925; and the two high schools—Central Collegiate, 1909, and the Technical High School, 1931. Additions have been made to the Alexandra, Empire and Victoria Schools. The total cost of these twelve structures has exceeded one and one half million dollars.

In 1929, the Provincial Government erected in Moose Jaw the third Normal School of the province. Since that time under Principals J. S. Huff, R. W. Asselstine, and G. A. Brown, and their staffs, Normal classes numbering from two to three hundred and fifty have been trained annually.

Other educational institutions, of a denominational character, worthy of mention, are the St. Agnes Separate School, erected 1914; the St. Louis College, erected 1921; the Convent of Our Lady of Sion, 1924; with a combined attendance of some four hundred pupils, and the Moose Jaw College, now closed, which for a period of fifteen years had more than one hundred students in residence.

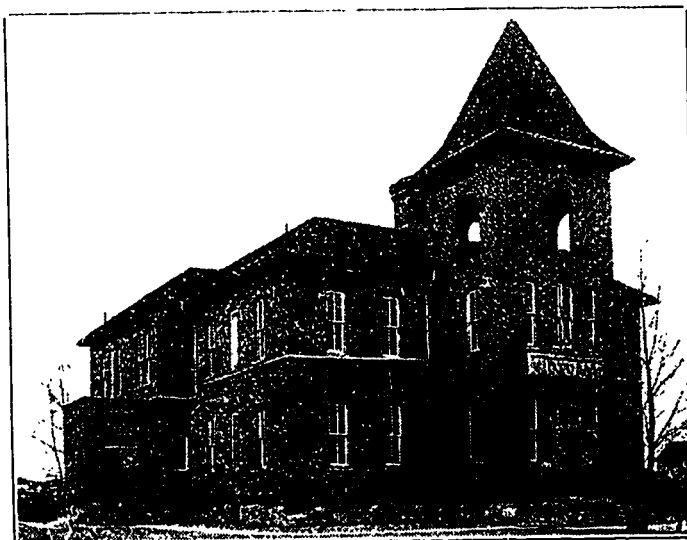
That the quality of the work done in the public and high schools of Moose Jaw has always been first rate is well known. For thirty years the average percentage of students passing departmental examinations has been between eighty-five and ninety. No other city in Canada has produced four Rhodes Scholars. Neil Hossie, marine lawyer in Vancouver; Kenneth Hamilton, medical doctor in Edmonton; George Curtis, professor of law in Dalhousie University; Russell Hopkins, studying law at Oxford University, have brought honor to themselves and the schools of Moose Jaw by their attainment to this high and coveted distinction. Besides these outstanding students, our schools have sent out hundreds of graduates into useful service in many fields—commerce, education, farming, law, industry, medicine, the Christian ministry.

Today, in the schools of our city, a boy or girl may climb, during the fourteen or fifteen years of his or her growth, from kindergarten to the degree of Associate in Arts. He or she may specialize in literary, scientific, commercial, industrial, agricultural or artistic lines of endeavor. From the humble beginning in Foley Hall, 1884, the system has grown in height and breadth to its present comprehensive proportions.

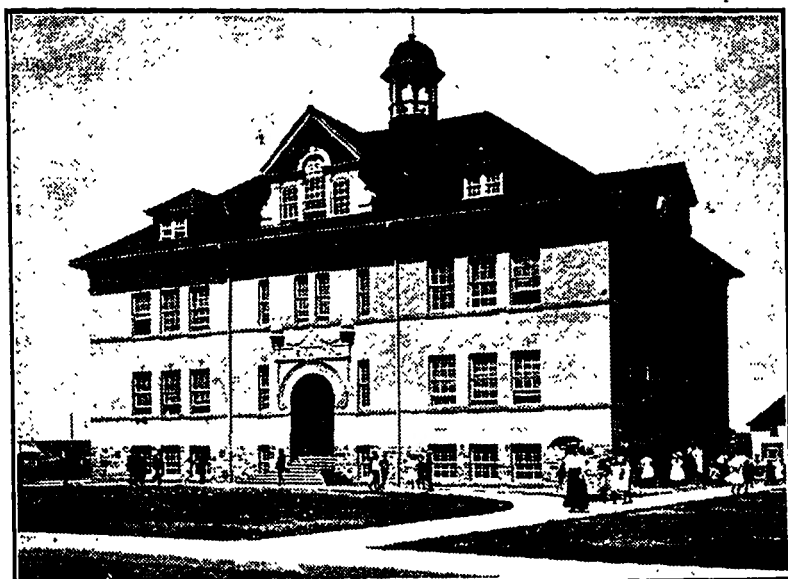
Democracy is threatened today by the impatience of those who would suddenly shape the world to their desires. Trusted and beloved by all who read with understanding the record of its achievements, democracy will be preserved and moulded into finer forms. The foundation of democracy is the institution devoted to the task of raising steadily and surely the general intelligence of the public. That institution is the school.

G. G. HARRIS, B.A.



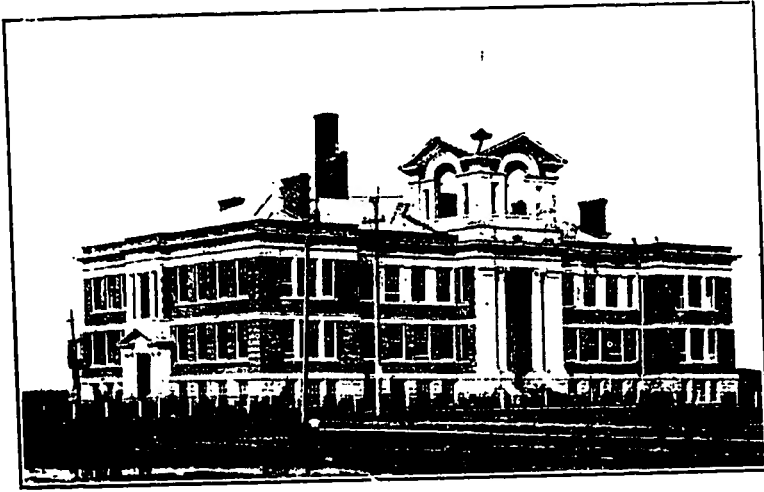


VICTORIA PUBLIC SCHOOL—Built 1889.



ALEXANDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL—Built 1905.





ROSS PUBLIC SCHOOL—Built 1913.

# Jubilee Celebration



## The Day's Programme in the Schools



- I. 9 a.m.—Significance of the Occasion.

*Teachers to Their Classes.*

*Remond Library*

- II. 3 p.m.—Addresses to the Pupils of Each School by Visitors.

# Evening Programme

## PART I.

*Auditorium of the Technical School—8 p.m.*

“O, CANADA”

PRAYER

REV. J. W. PRATT, B.A.

ADDRESS

MR. C. W. CRICHTON, Chairman of Moose Jaw School Boards.

VIOLIN DUET

JACK AND SYLVIA FREIDIN

ADDRESS

HONORABLE Dr. H. E. MUNROE, Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan.

ADDRESS

MR. HUGH RORISON, Old Timers' Association

SOLO

MR. ROBERT FORREST

ADDRESS

SIR FREDERICK HAULTAIN, Chief Justice of Saskatchewan.

ADDRESS

HONORABLE J. W. ESTEY, Minister of Education.

VIOLIN DUET

JACK AND SYLVIA FREIDIN

ADDRESS

DR. J. W. SIFTON, Superintendent of Schools.

ADDRESS

DR. W. C. MURRAY, President University of Saskatchewan.

SOLO

MR. ROBERT FORREST

ADDRESS

HONORABLE J. G. GARDINER, Premier of Saskatchewan.

“GOD SAVE THE KING”

*Orchestra*

JACK EDWARDS' MAYFAIR ORCHESTRA

## PART II.

Reception to Invited Guests

*Upper Corridor of Technical School*

## SECONDARY EDUCATION

Secondary education has made tremendous strides in the past thirty years. In provinces which have had a population increase of thirty-three per cent, the High School attendance has increased four hundred per cent; and in provinces where the population has increased three hundred per cent, the High School attendance has increased thirty-two hundred per cent.

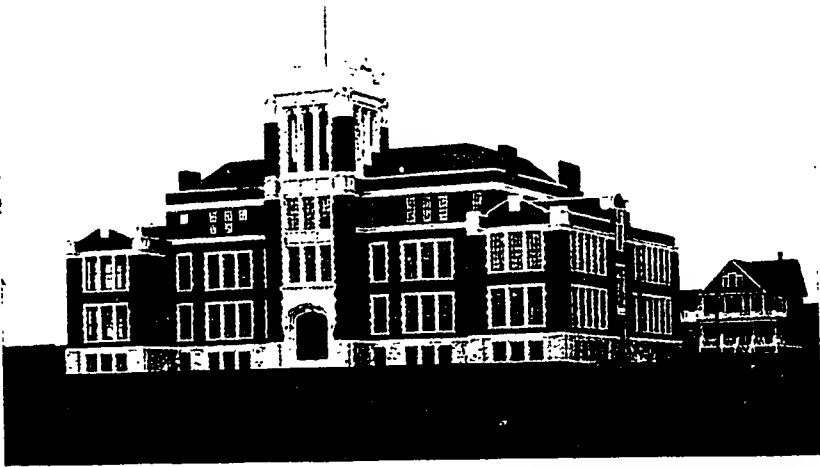
This tremendous increase has come about through changed conditions of commerce and industry. Commerce and industry are becoming more and more scientific and specialized as the days go by. The students and their parents, therefore, find it necessary to secure more advanced training than was obtained thirty years ago. Thus, where once the Public School was the training ground for life, the people find that it is no longer sufficient. Today, therefore, commerce and industry demand that the scene change and the High School has become the real training ground for life.

One other great change has forced itself on the type of High School education. For many years the academic training, which fits students largely for the professions, was the only type offered, but since less than ten per cent of the people can find employment in the professions, Technical High School training has been found essential for the progress and success of the nation.

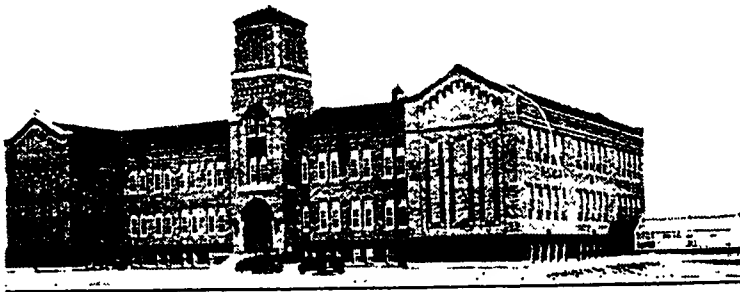


MOOSE JAW TECHNICAL INSTITUTE—Built 1931.





CENTRAL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE—Built 1909.



MOOSE JAW NORMAL SCHOOL—Built 1929.



SIR FREDERICK W. G. HAULTAIN  
First Minister of Education in the N.W.T.



WILLIAM GRAYSON, K.C.  
Member of School Board over 30 years  
Chairman over 20 years



A. W. IRWIN  
Member of School Board 25 years  
Chairman



DR. J. W. SIFTON  
Superintendent of Schools



J. K. COLLING, B.A.  
Principal of Central Collegiate 25 years



## Four Rhodes Scholars

NEIL HOSSIE

GEORGE CURTIS

KENNETH HAMILTON

RUSSELL HOPKINS

From time to time one hears some criticism that the Rhodes Scholars are not making good after returning to Canada. If true, this would be serious. In a few cases this criticism may be justified.

The people of Moose Jaw can rest assured that it does not apply to any of our four scholars.

Mr. Neil Hossie fought four years in the Great War and afterwards began the practice of law in Vancouver, where he is recognized as the greatest authority on Marine Law.

Dr. Kenneth Hamilton, after winning many other scholarships and obtaining the highest degree in medicine given in the Empire, began the practice of medicine in Edmonton and is having remarkable success.

Mr. George Curtis received first-class honors at Oxford, a standing which very few students obtain. He came back to Canada, was admitted to the bar, and now is one of the Professors of Law at Dalhousie University.

Mr. Russel Hopkins is still at Oxford completing his final year. Out of a class of over two hundred, he was amongst the first five in first class honors in the spring of 1933.

# Reminiscences

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Our family arrived in Moose Jaw in May of 1883 to find only two frame buildings, comprising the store of J. J. McLean, on the corner of River and Main Streets, and the Occidental Hotel, where the Masonic Building now stands. During the summer numerous buildings were constructed, amongst others the Foley Building, situated on the north-west corner of Main and Manitoba Streets, the present site of the Maple Leaf Hotel. On the ground floor of this building was a pool room, with the upstairs divided by a low partition into a printing office on the one side and a school room on the other, with Mrs. Wells, the wife of the printer, assuming the role of school teacher. There were 15 or 20 pupils enrolled and each paid, or was supposed to pay, 50c per week, but school attendance was somewhat irregular due to the inability of the pupils to find the necessary 50 cents.

The public school, which opened in 1884, occupied the same school room, with Duncan Stewart as teacher. The first morning we were gathered around the stove, waiting for the opening hour, and the new teacher asked one of the Murphy boys, named Pat, where his books were and he replied saucily, using some unparliamentary language. Immediately the teacher laid upon young Murphy and administered a thorough drubbing and then the bell rang and the new educational system commenced to function with a discipline none the worse by reason of the preliminaries.

WILLIAM SIMINGTON.

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## SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS, DEAR OLD GOLDEN RULE DAYS

It certainly makes one begin to feel somewhat old to hark back to the long, low, rambling building at the corner of Main and High Streets, where the Bank of Commerce is now situated and where I first commenced the study of the three R's.

The equipment consisted generally of a 5 cent slate with a 5 cent box of pencils and a first primer, but if one was fortunate enough to have a 15 or 20 cent slate with a colored felt edging to lessen the noise, you were the envy of the class. The school was heated by a stove, the top of which had gently sloping sides, and in the winter we placed our stone ink bottles on this top to thaw them out. One morning, I recall, one of the pupils forgot his bottle, and the angle at which it was placed on the sloping side made it point directly at the door. As the steam from the heated ink gathered force it blew out the cork just at the time the teacher stepped in through the door, with the laughing result that he received the somewhat spent force of the cork in his face.

WARREN McBRIDE.

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One of my earliest recollections in connection with the development of the fine school system we have today is that of listening-in on a vehement denunciation by two of the town fathers of the folly of building the enormous four-room structure of brick which is a part of the present Victoria School. "It will swamp the town in a hopeless debt situation. There will never be enough children here to make use of half of it," were some of the remarks I heard. This conversation took place in the summer of 1889. The cost of the building was, I believe, \$7,000.00.

JOHN R. GREEN.



# Reminiscences

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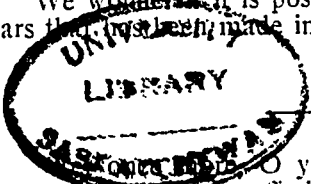
We have travelled a long way educationally since the first little school that I attended on High Street, near Main.

My earliest recollection is of wooden benches, a box stove which heated the room unevenly, and a teacher who believed in the old adage, "spare the rod and spoil the child."

After several moves we were finally located in the Victoria School, which we then considered the height of efficiency. Now it seems very antiquated in comparison with the splendidly equipped and expertly staffed modern institutions that we have today.

We wonder if it is possible to make the same progress in the next fifty years that has been made in the past.

NORMAN J. BELLAMY.



O ye laurels, and once more, ye myrtles brown—" we come to pluck our offering of symbolic fruit. As one of the many thousands of students who have attended the schools of a prairie community I am glad to bear my portion of the tribute. I would dedicate it to the unsunderable courage of those pioneer men and women who sought for us a goodly heritage. Education is not merely concerned with aesthetic surroundings; not with filigree of ivy, nor "dreaming towers." These, too, have their inestimable value. But in the old Victoria school-house, in the neighborhood of a creek where the first violets flourished, and the banks gleamed white for winter sleigh riding, there also, however far from traditional influence, were found teachers under whose guidance horizons immeasurably widened. Amid the material vicissitudes of an age differing from any other in the history of mankind, we do well to especially honor the founders of our city's educational system; and to trust that from the forces thus engendered there may be derived "that high tranquility of the steeled heart," that faith in the final victory of the mind over the machine, which shall enable us to face issues squarely, to judge facts dispassionately, and when the need arises, to discard fearlessly; but to carry forward into the new order something of the beauty and stability of the old.

ETHEL KIRK GRAYSON.

Following the formation of a school district in Moose Jaw, half a century ago, classes were, in the first ten years, conducted in many different locations.

The first two premises were adjacent to, or a part of, hotels. Then, on Main Street, two halls above stores were utilized. These class rooms were dark, unsanitary and unsafe.

There were from forty to eighty pupils in attendance, ranging in age from six to sixteen, with the necessary different grades.

Truly those pioneer teachers worked under very real difficulties, and all honor is due to them.

In spite of handicaps they imparted to their students a good general education.

HUGH RORISON.



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Moose Jaw

## FIRST SCHOOL BOARD — 1885

R. BOGUE

W. H. RUMSEY

REV. S. J. TAYLOR

## 1934 SCHOOL BOARD

### (a) *Public School—*

C. W. CRICHTON, *Chairman*

J. E. CHISHOLM, K.C.

HAROLD JOHNSON

W. M. ROSE, K.C.

S. J. HAWKINS

W. D. McINTYRE

WM. GARDNER

### (b) *Separate School Board—*

J. P. KELEHER, *Chairman*.

W. E. KIRSCH

T. J. COLTON

MRS. J. F. SHEEHAN

D. WILLIAMS

T. THIBEAU

O. AUBREY

### (c) *Collegiate Institute Board—*

C. W. CRICHTON, *Chairman*.

J. E. CHISHOLM, K.C.

HAROLD JOHNSON

W. M. ROSE, K.C.

S. J. HAWKINS

### (d) *Vocational Education Committee—*

C. W. CRICHTON, *Chairman*.

J. E. CHISHOLM, K.C.

HAROLD JOHNSON

W. M. ROSE, K.C.

S. J. HAWKINS

THOMAS MILLER

WM. McCULLOUGH

JOHN S. BRANSTON.

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PAMPHLET BINDER

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